

and advocacy of policies and programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. Army resource management. He took bold and decisive measures to improve business procedures, and tirelessly pursued financial system integration and streamlining of Army processes. For instance, Mr. Gregory led the Army-wide effort to eliminate the Installation Supply Buffer and associated annual maintenance costs, while integrating supply management and financial processes. These changes reduced processing cycle time from four days to one, improving the flow of spare parts to tactical units and saving taxpayers \$9 million. Mr. Gregory also helped to steer the Army's transformational business initiatives program and the Army Business Initiative Council, through which the Army has gleaned more than \$1 billion in monetary benefits. He administered implementation of Army Budget and Performance Initiatives, as well, including designing and deploying a training package and reviewing metrics for the fiscal year 2005 budget.

Mr. Speaker, in this final position Mr. Gregory also had a significant impact on the House Government Reform Committee. His forthright information and proactive attitude assisted our committee in addressing the financial management challenges of mobilized Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve soldiers. He identified the problem—processing limitations caused by separate pay and personnel systems—and played a significant role in crafting a solution. His commitment to solving pay issues for all soldiers, whether active or reserve component, exemplifies his devotion to our men and women in uniform.

On every day of his service to our country, Mr. Gregory demonstrated honor, integrity and personal courage. He projected the values and the broad perspective of the government, and provided the solid executive skills demanded by the American public. He helped to ensure that the Army was of the highest quality and was responsive to the needs, policies and goals of the Nation.

Mr. Gregory's leadership and attention to people were truly outstanding. He actively participated in the personal and professional development of both military and civilian subordinates and peers. He was a premier team builder within the office of the assistant secretary of the Army (financial management and comptroller) and a truly exemplary leader, empowering those with whom he worked and motivating them to achieve at higher levels than they thought possible.

Mr. Gregory's character and accomplishments have earned him numerous awards. He was the first civilian to be honored with the Finance Corps Regiment Award. He also has received two Meritorious Presidential Rank Awards, the Executive Excellence Award for Executive Achievement, the Special Act Award—Kuwait Reconstruction Program, the Leonard H. Kerman Memorial Award, the Meritorious Civilian Award, the Superior Civilian Service Award, multiple Outstanding Performance Awards and several Significant Accomplishment Awards.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ernest J. Gregory, a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia, retires after 37 years of Federal service to the United States of America on the 2nd day of October, 2004. He, his lovely wife, Johanna, and their children, Maura, Ernie and Jason, deserve the thanks and praise of this grateful Nation,

which he has faithfully served for so long. I know the members of the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in wishing him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

IN HONOR OF MISS NICOSIA
YOUNG AND MISS HEATHER
ADAMS

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary performance of two young women who have greatly contributed to my office through Congressional Black Caucus intern programs.

Heather Adams, after undergoing a rigorous selection process, came to my office in late May of this year as a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation intern. She has been a constant help to my staff and myself in the performance of the office operation. Though currently residing in Pickerington, Ohio, she originates from my district, Detroit, Michigan.

Heather earned her Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing at West Virginia State University. Moreover, she was a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon-International Honor Society in Economics as well as a consistent Dean's List honoree.

Heather has helped my legislative staff maintain correspondence with my constituents. She conducted research regarding constituent demographics, issues, and policies and organized and presented me with informative memos on key issues. As a participant in the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Summer Congressional Internship Program, Heather has expressed her interest in public policy and the political process. Heather aspires to one day to work on Capitol Hill focusing on domestic and international development issues.

I would also like to congratulate my Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Eleanor Holmes Norton, High School intern, Nicosia Young. Nicosia is a rising senior at Cesar Chavez Public Charter high school for Public Policy in the District. Aside from providing exceptional support to my staff, Nicosia brings with her a positive spirit and infectious laugh everyday with her to work. Always understanding and eager to help, she expresses true determination to succeed and extraordinary work ethic.

Aside from her outstanding work ethic, Nicosia is also an outstanding student. While maintaining a 3.33 GPA, she has been awarded the honor of Student of the Month, and student ambassador from her high school. Her goal is to attend college following her senior year, and she aspires to become a doctor. She is a vibrant, intelligent, and unique young woman, and I am happy to have had the opportunity to get to know her, and have her in my office.

I am sure that both young women will succeed in whatever they put their minds to, just as they have succeeded within my office. Again, I would like to thank both Nicosia and Heather for being such outstanding interns, and I wish them both the best in future endeavors.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST
CLASS WILLIAM R. DWYER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, during this time of war, our thoughts are constantly with our active duty military personnel overseas, and also with all of the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States military through the years. I rise to honor an individual who retired last month following a long period of outstanding military service to this country. Sergeant First Class William R. Dwyer has served this nation with distinction and honor for the past twenty years, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor him today.

Sergeant First Class William R. Dwyer enlisted in the United States Army in February 1984. During his career, he served as a communications and intelligence specialist in a number of challenging assignments, including overseas tours in Germany, Panama, Korea, and England. Throughout his service, he has been a leader and always used his knowledge and extensive experience to better our defense and our community.

Throughout his successful and noteworthy career, Sergeant First Class Dwyer focused on his duties to our nation and the United States Army. He concludes his remarkable career as a Vietnam War analyst at the Department of Defense where he has pushed toward resolving the still open cases of Americans missing from the Vietnam War.

Sergeant First Class Dwyer is highly regarded by his peers as someone who has demonstrated by his example the values, respect for family and hard work that is so central to our Armed Forces, and which has been the cornerstone of our nation's democratic freedoms. I am certain for these reasons, among others, he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and others who have worked with him over his years of service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking and congratulating Sergeant First Class William R. Dwyer for his dedicated and committed service to the United States. I wish him and his family the best as they look toward the future.

TRIBUTE TO CROFTON, MARYLAND

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the town of Crofton, Maryland, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Located near Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, Crofton has contributed to Maryland's cultural and economic life since 1964.

This celebration is designed to commemorate Crofton's growth from its beginnings as a small farm town to the large suburban community it is today. Crofton was established when Hamilton Crawford, a Louisiana developer, designed a community convenient to Washington and Baltimore that appealed to both residents and businesses.

In 1965, one year after its establishment, the town experienced major growth and development, becoming home to more than 500 residents in its first year. A civic center, recreational facilities, schools, stores, and restaurants quickly followed. This expansion continued during subsequent decades, and today Crofton is a thriving community with more than 30,000 residents.

Crofton prides itself on the fact that it has experienced economic growth while retaining its safe, family-oriented, and close-knit roots. Residents today still enjoy the amenities that originally attracted them—tree-lined streets, suburban environment and convenience to two major cities.

Crofton's 40th anniversary celebration features children's activities, concerts, athletic events, banquets, and parades. The events began in April and will continue through the end of November. Local businesses, sports teams, armed forces, and firemen are all participating in these events.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in commemorating this milestone in Crofton history, as we celebrate 40 years of this dynamic Maryland community.

HONORING MR. JEFFERY J. DAAR

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in saluting Mr. Jeffery J. Daar, Chair of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, who is being honored on August 14 by the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club. Jeffery is a remarkable man with many accomplishments in both politics and law.

Since founding his own professional law firm 22 years ago, Jeffery has handled cases that are both highly complex and in the public interest. As a specialist in complex litigation, he represented California municipalities in 5 years of insurance insolvency court proceedings, resulting in a legislative amendment to the California Insurance Code. He has led important consumer class action cases that have reached the highest courts in California, and has authored several influential publications covering varied topics from the insurance industry to election law. He is a leader in his field.

Jeffery was born and raised in Los Angeles. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Claremont Men's College and his Juris Doctorate in 1982 from University of California Davis. His strong interest in politics was first evident during his college years when he served as President of the Student Democratic Coalition, a statewide organization of more than 20 college Democratic Clubs.

Jeffery has taken an active part in his community's school system, serving as an elected member of the managing councils of both Dearborn Elementary School and Holmes Middle School. He also serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of The Zacarias Foundation, a nonprofit education foundation. In addition, he helps promote our community through his work as a Member of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jeffery is married and has four children.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Jeffery J. Daar for his impressive career and dedication to the people of California and to congratulate him on earning the Democratic Volunteer of the Year Award.

A TRIBUTE TO BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTH ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important group of individuals whose hard work and dedication has made a tremendous impact on the lives of numerous children throughout North Alabama.

For over twenty years, the Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama has provided hundreds of children with a positive influence and a strong foundation to help guide them through adolescence. Every volunteer does a great deal to improve the quality of life of these children and to help them develop goals and aspirations of their own. For its hard work and continued commitment, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama is recognized nationally for its performance as one of the best agencies in the country.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 100th year of the national Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and on August 14th, a reunion and centennial picnic was held in Huntsville. This picnic was an opportunity for everyone involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters to come together, trade success stories, and relive the times each volunteer and child has had together.

Mr. Speaker, I've always believed that our children should have an opportunity to succeed and be an active participant in our communities. I'm pleased that there are a large number of individuals who are committed to helping less fortunate children in our area. I rise today to commend each and every person who is involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and join in their centennial celebration.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATIONAL MARINA DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 647, which expresses Congress's support of the goals of National Marina Day.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Marshall Funk of Marinas International for his work with Pier 121 Marina on Lake Lewisville, Scott's Landing Marina and Silver Lake Marina in Grapevine, and Twin Coves Marina in Flower Mound, located in my Congressional District.

National Marina Day will be celebrated this year on August 14. This annual celebration promotes the United States' marinas and recognizes the importance of marinas across the country. National Marina Day focuses on two

central themes: the important role that marinas play as family-friendly and environmentally friendly gateways to the water.

There are more than 12,000 marinas nationwide, which employ over 140,000 people. Marinas provide the public with a safe way to enjoy outdoor activities like sailing, cruising, and fishing.

I've spent many enjoyable hours boating with my family and, as a member of the Congressional Boating Caucus, I am glad to support House Resolution 647.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL GARRETT OF EL CAJON, CA

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Garrett of El Cajon, CA and his commitment and accomplishments for his community, his family and his country. He began by preparing himself with the finest education by earning a Masters Degree in Public Administration with specialty in personnel and labor relations from California State University, Fullerton. He also earned a Masters in Science in Urban Planning from the University of Arizona and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the University of Washington.

Bill has a history of public service that began with his commitment to his country when he joined the United States Army. After his military commitment, Bill worked as an urban planning consultant in Arizona and California before becoming City Manager of the City of Corona. In 1996, Bill became the City Manager of El Cajon and brought a "can do" attitude to every department.

For the past eight years, Bill Garrett has played an integral role in the shaping of El Cajon and the surrounding communities. His efforts with the downtown corridor, the expansion of housing rehabilitation and his role in assisting first time home buyers are well-known. His strong belief that the employees of El Cajon are its greatest resource has caused the city to excel far beyond expectations. His obedience to the dictates of his council and the elected mayor has created a team effort second to none.

Bill Garrett is highly respected by his peers from around the nation but his greatest satisfaction comes from the accolade and respect from his fellow employees for the City of El Cajon. He has nurtured, trained, educated, and assisted his fellow employees through the good and tough times. He has also shared his insight and knowledge with the California City Management Foundation, the International City Management Association, the San Diego City-County Managers Association and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

In addition, Bill is a vital player as President of the Cuyamaca College Foundation Board, a member and past President of the El Cajon Rotary Club, Secretary of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College District Auxiliary, founding member of El Cajon Sister Cities Committee and President of the El Cajon Historical Society.

Bill Garrett has allowed his experience to lead him into great service for his community,